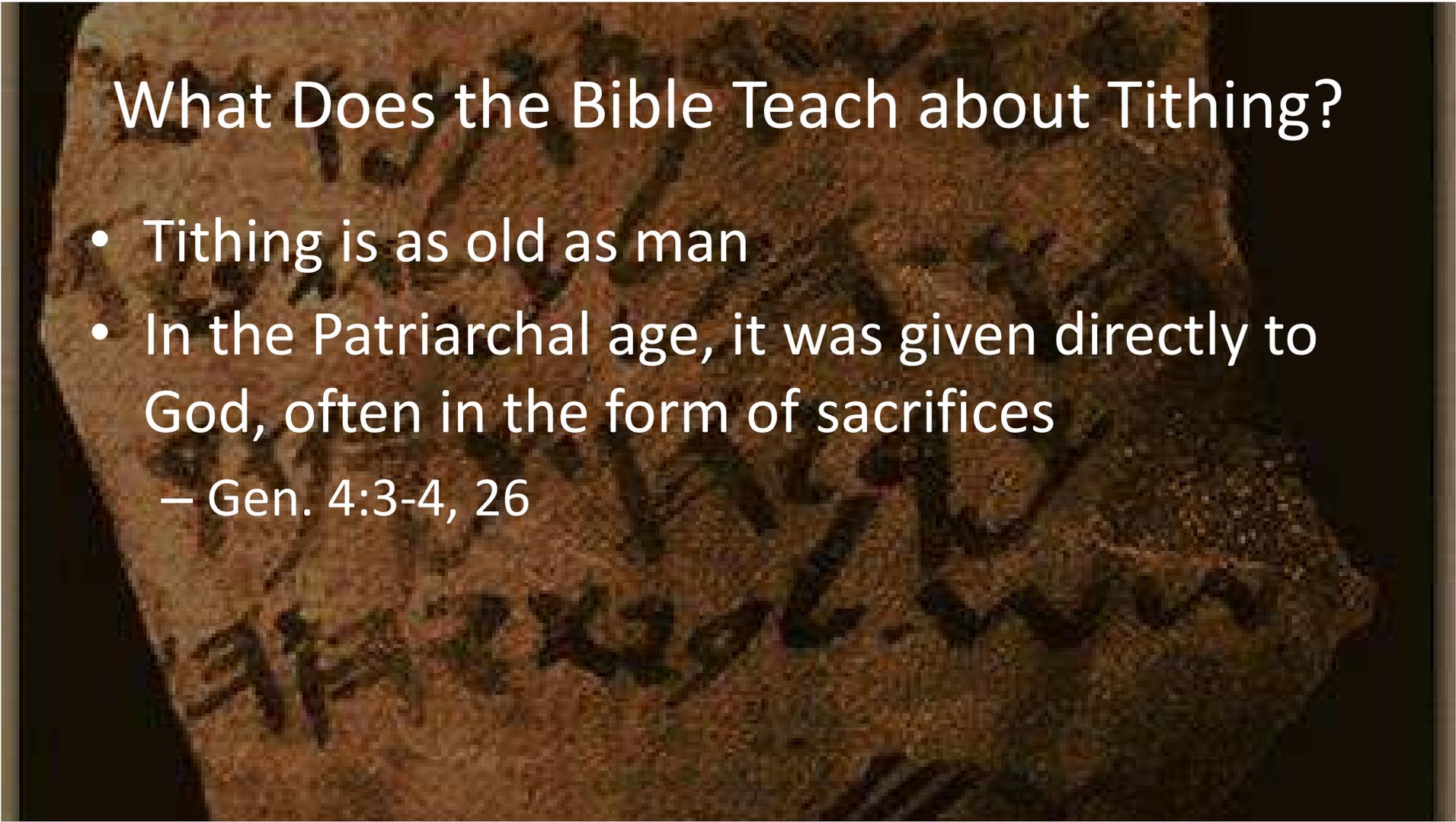


What Does the Bible Teach about Tithing?

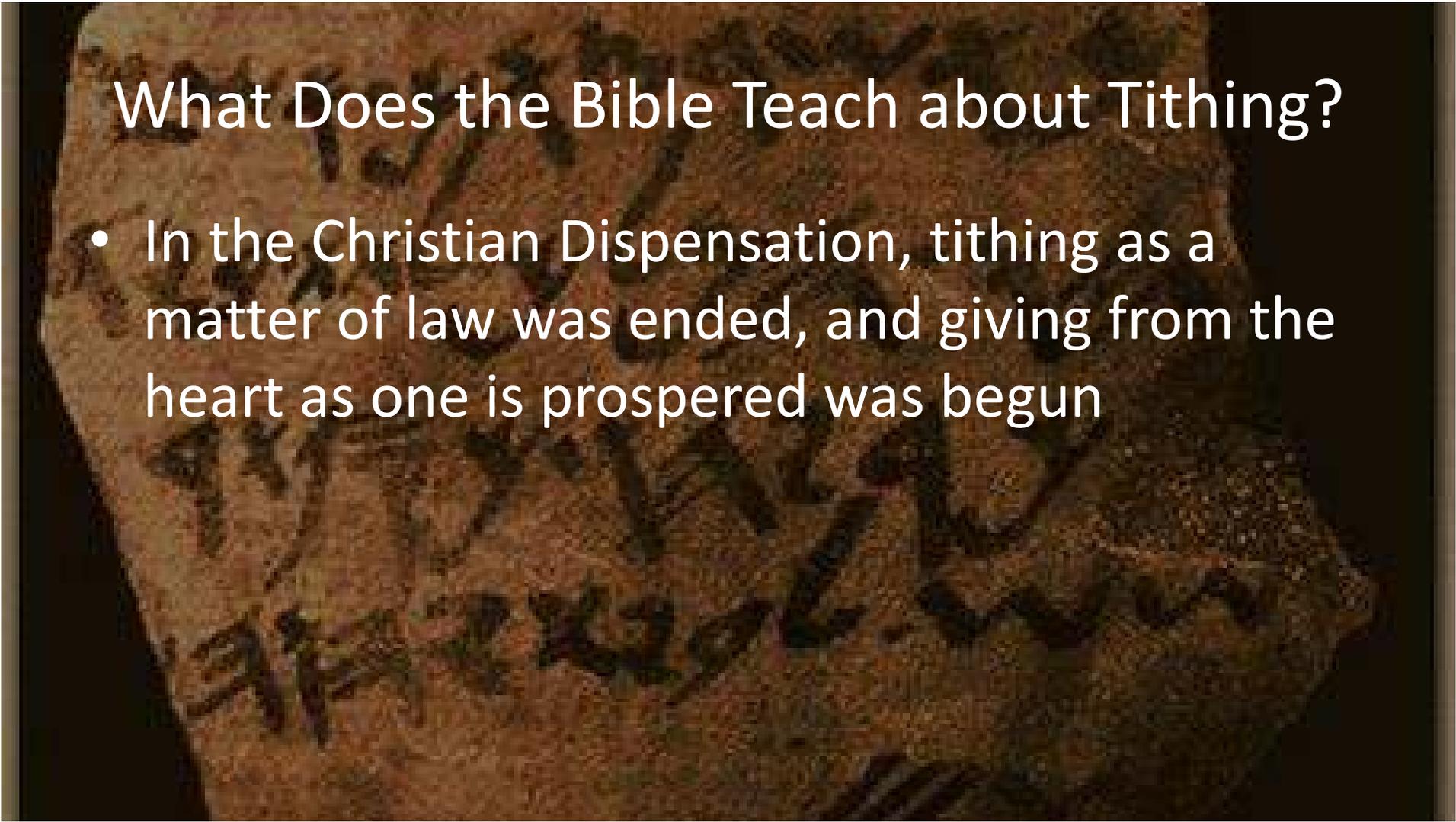


What Does the Bible Teach about Tithing?

- Tithing is as old as man
- In the Patriarchal age, it was given directly to God, often in the form of sacrifices
 - Gen. 4:3-4, 26

What Does the Bible Teach about Tithing?

- Under the Law of Moses, tithing was regulated by the law
 - Ma'aser Kesafim - tithing ten percent
 - Maaser Rishon - first tithe is giving of one tenth of livestock and agricultural produce to the Levites every year
 - Terumat Hamaaser - the tithe of tithes; the Levites in turn gave a tithe of what they were given to the priests every year
 - Maaser Sheni - second tithe that was for the Temple given two out of three years
 - Maaser Ani - in the third year, the second tithe became the poor tithe for widows, orphans, and strangers



What Does the Bible Teach about Tithing?

- In the Christian Dispensation, tithing as a matter of law was ended, and giving from the heart as one is prospered was begun

Tithing In The Old Testament

- Abraham gave a tithe to Melchizedek
 - Gen. 14:20 - “...And he gave him a tithe of all.”
- Jacob promised to give a tenth to God upon his safe return
 - Gen. 28:22 - “And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God's house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You.”

Tithing In The Old Testament

- Israel gave freewill offerings for the tabernacle unregulated by the law of tithing
 - Ex. 35:4-5, 21, 29 - “And Moses spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, This is the thing which the LORD commanded, saying: 5 Take from among you an offering to the LORD. Whoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it as an offering to the LORD... They came, both men and women, as many as had a willing heart, and brought... The children of Israel brought a freewill offering to the LORD, all the men and women whose hearts were willing to bring material for all kinds of work which the LORD, by the hand of Moses, had commanded to be done.”

Tithing In The Old Testament

- Ex. 36:3-7 - “And they received from Moses all the offering which the children of Israel had brought for the work of the service of making the sanctuary. So they continued bringing to him freewill offerings every morning. 4 Then all the craftsmen who were doing all the work of the sanctuary came, each from the work he was doing, 5 and they spoke to Moses, saying, The people bring much more than enough for the service of the work which the LORD commanded us to do. 6 So Moses gave a commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, Let neither man nor woman do any more work for the offering of the sanctuary. And the people were restrained from bringing, 7 for the material they had was sufficient for all the work to be done-indeed too much.”

Tithing In The Old Testament

- David and Israel's freewill offerings for the temple
 - 1Chron. 29:3 - “Moreover, because I have set my affection on the house of my God, I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house, my own special treasure of gold and silver...”

Tithing In The Old Testament

- 1Chron. 29:9-14 - “Then the people rejoiced, for they had offered willingly, because with a loyal heart they had offered willingly to the LORD; and King David also rejoiced greatly. 10 Therefore David blessed the LORD before all the assembly; and David said: Blessed are You, LORD God of Israel, our Father, forever and ever. 11 Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, The power and the glory, The victory and the majesty; For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, And You are exalted as head over all. 12 Both riches and honor come from You, And You reign over all. In Your hand is power and might; In Your hand it is to make great And to give strength to all. 13 Now therefore, our God, We thank You And praise Your glorious name. 14 But who am I, and who are my people, That we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from You, And of Your own we have given You.”

Tithing In The Old Testament

- Israel's tithing to God
 - One tenth to the Levites who in turn gave a tenth to the priests - Num. 18:21-28
 - One tenth for the tabernacle and worship - Deut. 12:5-18
 - One tenth every third year for the poor - Deut. 14:28-29

Tithing In The Old Testament

- Additional regulated tithes for Israel
 - Leave that which grows in the fallow fields in the seventh year to the poor, widows, orphans, and strangers - Ex. 23:10-11
 - Allow people to satisfy their hunger as they pass through the fields - Deut. 23:24-25; Luke 6:1
 - Leave the corners and gleanings for the poor - Lev. 19:9-10; Deut. 24:19-22
 - The Lord's release from debt for the poor every seventh year - Deut. 15:1-4

Tithing In The Old Testament

- Judah's failure in tithing
 - Mal. 3:8-10 - "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, In what way have we robbed You? In tithes and offerings. 9 You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation. 10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this, Says the LORD of hosts, If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it."

Tithing In The New Testament

- Zacchaeus gave half to the poor, and 400% to anyone he may have cheated - Luke 19:8
- The widow gave her entire income - Luke 21:1-4
- The Pharisees were meticulous in tithing - Matt. 23:23

Christians Rose Above The Limits Of Tithing

- The New Testament provides a rich history of giving, imitating the greatest example of the gift of Jesus Christ
 - John 3:16 - “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”
 - 2Cor. 8:9 - “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.”

Christians Rose Above The Limits Of Tithing

- First century Christians exceeded the structure of Old Law tithes
 - The Christians in Jerusalem - Acts 2:44-45, 4:34-35
 - Barnabas - Acts 4:36-37
 - The disciples in Antioch - Acts 11:27-30
 - The churches in Macedonia and Achaia - Rom. 15:25-26; 2Cor. 8:1-5
 - The brethren in Philippi who helped Paul often - Phil. 1:3-5, 4:14-18

Principles That Guide Christian Giving

- As we prosper - 1Cor. 16:1-2; 2Cor. 8:12-13
- We seek to excel - 2Cor. 8:7; 2Cor. 9:8-10; Matt. 5:20
- We do so willingly - 2Cor. 8:12, 9:5, 7
- We aim for equal sharing - 2Cor. 8:13-14
- We sow bountifully - 2Cor. 9:6

Principles That Guide Christian Giving

- We give purposely - 2Cor. 9:7
- We give with cheerfulness - 2Cor. 9:7
- We give to glorify our Father in heaven -
Matt. 5:16; 6:1-4
- We give to lay up treasure in heaven -
Titus 3:4-7; 1Tim. 6:17-19; Matt. 6:19-20